

Vanguard of Expansion: Army Engineers in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1819-1879

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Book Notices

Portrait of Iowa Travel Guide, by John M. Zielinski. (Iowa City: Iowa Heritage Publications, 1982. pp. 52, illustrations, maps, \$4.95 paper.)

John Zielinski, noted Iowa artist, photographer, and author of several previous illustrated books on the Amish and Mesquakie, has compiled a list of things to see and do in each of Iowa's ninety-nine counties. This slender work should provide a ready-made reference guide to Iowa's tourists and the Hawkeye natives who wish to view the sights of their own state. Keep it in your glove compartment when travelling anywhere in the Corn State.

Vanguard of Expansion: Army Engineers in the Trans-Mississippi West, 1819-1879, by Frank N. Schubert. (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1981. pp. 160, illustrations, notes, index, \$4.50 paper.)

The author, a graduate of the University of Toledo, is an historian with the Office of the Chief of Engineers. This slender volume is not meant to be a comprehensive narrative of the U.S. Army exploration in the West. Yet the book does present a well-researched account of the Corps of Topographical Engineers from Major Stephen Long and the Yellowstone Expedition (1818-20) to Lt. George Wheeler and the civilian scientists of the 1870s. Much of the book focuses on the explorers themselves—Long, Schoolcraft, Nicollet, Fremont and the reconnaissances of the Mexican War, the boundary surveys along the Canadian and Mexican borders, and the surveys of the Indian Wars. The book is well illustrated with maps, portraits, and lithographs. It is certainly well worth the price and is a tribute to the Historical Division of the Corps of Engineers and the Government Printing Office.

— — MDG

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